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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date of Deposit: July 9, 2003

Applicant(s): K. KAWADA et al

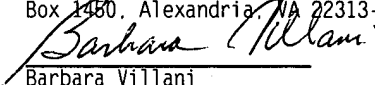
Serial No. :

Filed : Herewith

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METHOD AND APPARATUS  
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THEREWITH

Art Unit :  
Examiner :

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

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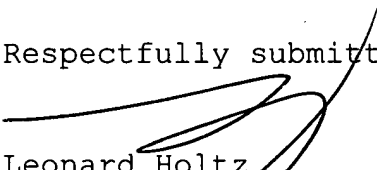
S I R :

Submitted herewith are copies of the publications identified on the attached Patent Office form PTO/SB/08A.

The publications are identified on pages 2-4 of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the publications submitted herewith be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Application Number		
				Filing Date		Herewith
				First Named Inventor		KAWADA
				Group Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		03397/LH

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		4,734,704		Mizutani et al	03-29-1988	

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	offc <sup>3</sup>	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
		JP	8-106172	A	SEKIOKA ET AL	04-23-1996		X*
		JP	11-058832	A	YAMAGUCHI ET AL	03-02-1999		X*
		JP	11-058833	A	YAMAGUCHI ET AL	03-02-1999		X*
			*English abstract attached.					

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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